

'CAUSE THE BIBLE TOLD ME SO

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To The Editor: For years I have been entertained by letters calling attention to what the Bible has to say about homosexuality, masturbation, wine drinking, and kindred topics. Are these letter writers aware, I wonder, that the Old Testament condones smoking?

Consult Genesis 24:64. We are told that "Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she lighted off the camel."

To The Editor: I am writing with regard to a letter in your column by Martin Gardner. His correspondence suggests that the Bible condones smoking...I believe Mr. Gardner should look at his dictionary:

Light (3): 1. to get down, or descend, as from a horse...

I feel certain that the Bible's reference was to one of the above. I think I'm correct in saying that cigarettes, including Camels, didn't exist in the time spanned by the book of Genesis.

To The Editor: I can't believe it! A Ms. Julia Towe...apparently took me seriously when I said the Old Testament condoned smoking because it described Rebecca as lighting off her camel. Or was her letter another joke?

Ms. Towe may be surprised to learn that baseball was a popular sport in old Judaea. God created the heavens and the earth in the big inning (Genesis 1:1). Eve stole first, and Adam stole second. Abraham tried to make a sacrifice, and Rebecca went to the well with a pitcher (Genesis 24:16). We learn about "the bases which Solomon had made" (Kings 25:16). David struck out Goliath, and the prodigal son made a home run. "Where are the nine?" (Luke 17:17). "And he put forth his hand and caught it" (Exodus 4:4). "Who can understand his errors?" (Psalms 19:12). "I shall not slide" (Psalms 26:1). "Yea, I will cause men to walk" (Ezekial 36:12).

The widow's mite (Mark 12:42) is not the smallest insect mentioned in the Bible. It is the "wicked flee" (Proverbs 28:7). Nor is Bildad the Shuhite (shoe height) the smallest man in the Bible. It is Peter, who slept on his watch (Matthew 26:40). Moreover Peter said "Silver and gold have I none" (Acts 3:6), and who can be shorter than that?